

**LISKEARD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**THE
ANNUAL REPORT**

of the
**Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1969**

P. J. FOX, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD
T H E A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Liskeard.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the year which ended on 30th June, 1969, the estimated population of the No. 7 Health Area showed an increase of 700 to a total of 52,760. Of the six County Districts in the Health Area the Borough of Saltash showed the greatest increase at 250, whilst at the low end of the scale the figure in the Looe Urban District was limited to 10.

Live births during 1969 totalled 810, an increase of 67 over the 1968 figure, and the largest number registered since 1948. This produced a corrected birth rate of 18.6 per 1000 of population some 2.3 per 1000 above the national figure. Of these 810 live births 54 were illegitimate giving a percentage of 6.7 as compared with 7.1 per cent in the preceding year. Deaths of infants under one year of age totalled 13 which gave an infant mortality rate of 16.0 per 1000 live births. As is usual 10 of these 13 infants did not survive the critical first four weeks of life and 8 of these did not live for more than one week. No deaths resulted from the complications of pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium occurred during 1969.

During the year there were 734 deaths, an increase of 28 on the figure for 1968. The corrected death rate of 11.4 per 1000 of population was slightly below the national death rate. Again the most prevalent cause of death was heart disease which was responsible for 36% of all deaths. Cancer caused just over 21% of all deaths, and strokes were responsible for 16% of all deaths. Of the defined forms of cancer, that affecting the lung/bronchus was most prevalent, and caused 28 deaths, a reduction of 6 on the corresponding total for 1968, but still a high toll from a disease which is largely preventable.

Whilst the overall incidence of notifiable disease was only moderate - 313 cases giving an attack rate of 5.82 per 1000 of population - two troublesome minor epidemics were seen during the year. In and around Pelynt in the Liskeard Rural District there were at least 31 cases of scarlet fever, and in the adjoining Urban District of Looe a further 27 cases were notified. In addition many more children and some adults who did not show the rash of scarlet fever, suffered from tonsillitis and impetigo both of which are caused by the same organism which causes

scarlet fever - streptococcus pyogenes. The main weight of this outbreak fell on children attending the Pelynt Infant and Junior School. In an endeavour to halt or slow down the spread of this infection throat and nose swabs were taken from all children actually attending the school on the several occasions when it was visited, and children found to be carrying the causal organism were excluded for appropriate treatment. As an ancillary measure the school was closed for the two weeks immediately preceding the normal Easter school holiday. When after this period of five weeks the school re-opened some children were still found to be carrying the infection, and some few more cases of scarlet fever, and tonsillitis occurred, but by the end of April almost all this infection had disappeared. Some types of streptococcus are capable of causing more serious disease which can permanently damage the kidneys and the heart, but fortunately these types were not encountered during this outbreak.

During the second and third quarters of the year there was an unpleasant outbreak of infective jaundice which was largely confined to the Borough of Liskeard with a small number of cases in the adjoining parts of the Liskeard Rural District. One case which occurred in the St. Germans Rural District was a more virulent form of this infection, and caused the death of an 18 year old female. This disease is thought to be due to a virus as yet not positively identified. The precise means of spread are not known, but it is believed that human faeces carry the infection, and that the possibility of spread by droplet infection from the upper respiratory tract cannot be ruled out. Children are commonly affected and in many cases may not show obvious signs of the infection and in consequence the infection is not recognised. Nevertheless such sub-clinical cases are capable of acting as links in the chain of infection and passing on the disease to others. It is also possible that in the early stages of infection before the disease clearly declares itself, the patient may infect others before he or they are aware that he is in the early stages of the disease. These and other factors make it difficult to control the spread of disease, and one is driven back on the advocacy of stricter personal and general hygiene when the disease is prevalent, and especially if one is in contact with or caring for children or adults suffering from a vague illness which may well be the early stages of an attack of infective jaundice.

Whilst tuberculosis is no longer a crippling and lethal disease its occurrence cannot be viewed lightly or with lack of concern. Not so many years ago there were those who felt that in a relatively short time this disease would be no more than an unpleasant memory. These hopes have proved to be too optimistic, and after early large reductions in the prevalence of this disease, gains in recent years have been much less spectacular, and it is now clear that we must expect to have tuberculosis as a disease to be reckoned with for many years to come. As appears to be the case generally progress in reducing the number of newly discovered infections in this Health Area has been disappointingly slow in the last

few years, and instead of the hoped for steady downward trend the totals of new cases have fluctuated up and down over the past seven years. Thus in 1969 the total of 13 new cases notified was one more than the corresponding figure for 1968, and appreciably above the lowest total so far recorded of 9 cases in 1965. As is almost always the case nowadays the majority of the new infections occurred amongst males over the age of 45 years. It seems likely that such cases are due to the re-activation of an infection which may have occurred in earlier life. Causing little or no illness at that time it may not have been recognised as a tuberculosis infection, and would have remained dormant and inactive for many years before emerging as a recognisable disease in later middle age or old age.

In the past couple of years attention has been increasingly and more sharply focussed on the way in which the human animal is polluting and in many cases destroying the environment essential to the support, enjoyment, and even the continued existence of life in its many forms. Two great forces exert the main pressures against the environment we share with animal and plant life. The first, and presently probably the strongest of these is modern technology in the almost infinite variety of ways in which it manifests itself and is used. Those which spring most readily to mind are the chemical substances which are so widely used in agriculture and horticulture. Whilst their basic purpose in controlling pests and plant disease, and in improving crop yields is good and desirable, the harmful side effects and long term effects associated with their use so outweigh the advantage of using them that either they have to be used selectively and with great discretion, or in certain cases they have to be withdrawn or their use banned. Some of the large plants in which such chemicals and many others are manufactured produce waste material the disposal of which presents great problems. Traditionally such waste products have been turned into watercourses with the result that in some areas where industrial undertakings large in size and output, and perhaps also numerous operate, local streams, rivers and in some cases lakes have become heavily, and often dangerously polluted. This has produced conditions in which the normal fauna and flora of the water are reduced in number, and variety, and ultimately cease to exist. In other instances where fish can continue to live they may accumulate in their bodies levels of chemicals which are toxic to human beings if such fish are eaten.

The disappearance of the normal water plants, and weeds is frequently followed by a great proliferation in slimy green algae and fungi which further degrade and destroy the watercourse involved giving it the character of a disgusting and stagnant ditch. Streams, rivers and lakes are amongst the most pleasant features in our natural environment, and afford valuable outlets for recreation. Additionally with the growth in population and industry these as sources of water supply are assuming an importance which increases year by year. This consideration is more likely to be a compelling and urgent indication that this particular aspect of environmental pollution be brought under control than the pure

amenity aspect of the problem. In the long run this, and indeed most forms of environmental pollution arise because we as individuals and communities expect, and in a large part achieve higher and more sophisticated standards of living. There is nothing inherently wrong in this demand for a so-called higher standard of living, but we must not turn our backs on the undesirable by-products which result whether in the pollution of land, and water from industrial activities, the pollution of the atmosphere by gaseous discharges, the despoilation of open spaces by the deposit of household refuse, and unwanted domestic hardware or the ever rising tide of noise that assaults and batters our senses and our peace of mind. Reducing and eventually preventing pollution will not come about without the expenditure of money, in some cases very large sums indeed. If industry has to spend money on this, all or a large part of the expense involved will be passed on to the consumer by way of higher prices for goods and services. If such price increases reduce the ability of an industry to be competitive in overseas markets, it may well be necessary to subsidise measures to control and abate the pollution it creates. One way or another we all face the inescapable conclusion that solving this problem will cost us something.

On the personal level we must be clearly aware of the increasing amount of pollution we as individuals contribute to our environment in shape of household refuse and discarded hardware. The volume and diversity of this increases not only because population grows, but also because affluence and higher living standards give rise to more refuse per head of population. Modern methods of containing, wrapping, and presenting goods whilst excellent for that purpose, do by virtue of the almost indestructible properties some of them possess present quite a problem in their disposal. The increase in the number of non-returnable containers for solid and liquid commodities of all sorts adds further to the volume of unwanted material to be collected from private houses, and trade premises. As a consequence of all this, areas suitable for the tipping of refuse, which are already most difficult to find even in lightly populated rural districts, are having their life drastically reduced. I have for some time felt that refuse disposal is an increasingly serious problem to which insufficient thought and concern has so far been given. More enquiry and research on the two main facets of this problem is called for. We must look at ways and means of reducing the volume of refuse produced per head of population even if this involves some reduction in the durability and relative indestructibility of packages and containers or their replacement by some material which can be disintegrated or destroyed more readily. At the other end of the process more efficient handling of refuse at the tipping site including methods of bulk reduction, and destruction where possible will have increasingly to be used. The inevitable result of this will be some increase in the cost of this service. As a footnote I might add that as much of additional refuse produced consists of inert non-prutrescible material it presents a greater threat to amenity and civilised living conditions than to the health of the community.

During the year an interesting if rather unusual aspect of food hygiene came to notice. Elsewhere in the country close on 40 people were infested with liver fluke. This leaf-like worm normally attacks the sheep in which it causes liver rot. As the development of flukes calls for damp conditions and water, vegetation in the vicinity of streams and ponds in fields containing sheep is in danger of having on it encysted forms of the young fluke. Included with grass and other plant life to which flukes attach themselves is watercress. If watercress from such a location - usually referred to as "wild" watercress - is eaten by human beings the fluke will infest the human liver making the person concerned ill.

A certain amount of this "wild" watercress is still gathered and consumed or is sold to shops, hotels, and catering establishments and consumption of this type of watercress was implicated in the outbreak of fluke infestation referred to above. An additional hazard of eating watercress from uncontrolled sources is that of contracting food poisoning because the plant may have been contaminated by foul drainage from sewage disposal works, septic tanks, farmyards, fields, and roads. Whilst this latter form of contamination can be largely removed by vigorous washing of the cress in running water, the encysted young flukes are very firmly cemented to leaves and stems and are not normally loosened or dislodged until the watercress is eaten. Clearly any watercress eaten should come from reputable sources and growers where the conditions under which it is grown are properly controlled, and shops, hotels, and catering establishments have a clear duty to ensure that clean and safe supplies only of this popular commodity are offered to the public.

In closing this general preface I should like to take the opportunity of expressing to Members and Officers of the six County District Councils concerned my sincere thanks for the support and assistance afforded me in carrying out the duties of my appointment.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor A. R. Perry
Councillor K. J. Trewin

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Councillor H. G. Preston
Councillor F. G. Saunders

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

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Chief Public Health Inspector, Surveyor and Housing Manager.

Mr. C. Rayner,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

Mr. G. O. Cowling,
Assistant Surveyor.

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Luxstowe House,
Liskeard.

Telephone: Liskeard 2379

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

Area of Rural District: 104,803 acres
Population: 13,730
Number of Inhabited Houses at 1.4.69: 5,587
Rateable Value at 31.12.69: £329,020
Product of Penny Rate for year ended 31.3.69: £1,235. 13s. 7d.

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Vital Statistics for 1969

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births:	122	117	239
	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 of population:	20.9	18.6	16.3
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still Births:	2	1	3
	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births:	12.0	9.8	13.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths:	94	100	194
	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Death rate per 1,000 of population:	12.1	11.4	11.9
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Death of infants under one year of age:	-	4	4
	<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No.7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:	17.0	16.0	18.0

Principal Causes of Death at All Ages

Heart disease:	71
Cancer (all sites):	46
Stroke:	28
Respiratory disease:	24
Digestive disease:	7

Of the 239 live births 17 were illegitimate births i.e. 7.1% of the total, which is close to the level for the whole Health Area.

Cancer as a principal cause of death was more prevalent than during 1968. Of the defined forms of cancer causing death, that from affecting the lung/bronchus was most numerous.

Of those who died during the year 41% had reached or exceeded 75 years of age at the time of death.

Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis)

The incidence of this group of diseases was again comparatively light during 1969 when 63 cases were notified. Of these 31 were cases of scarlet fever associated with an outbreak haemolytic streptococcal infection which involved children and some adults in and around the village of Pelynt. I have already referred to this in the general preface to this Report, and do not propose to write further about it. The same observation applies to the 10 cases of infective jaundice which occurred in those parts of the Rural District adjoining the Borough of Liskeard, and which represents some over-spill of this infection from the much larger outbreak in the Borough of Liskeard.

The following are details of cases and case rates for the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 of population</u>	
		<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>
Scarlet fever	31	2.26	1.13
Measles	18	1.32	2.49
Infective jaundice	10	0.73	1.41
Leptospirosis	1	0.07	0.02
Meningitis	1	0.07	0.02
Food poisoning	1	0.07	0.04
Whooping cough	1	0.07	0.37

Tuberculosis

Four new cases of this disease were notified during the year as compared with 2 new cases in 1968. Of these 1 case was in 15 to 24 year age group, two were aged between 25 and 44 years and 1 was in the 45 to 64 year age group. Of these four cases 3 were males and 1 was a female. It is unusual nowadays to find this age distribution since tuberculosis is now largely a disease of those over 45 years of age. No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis.

At the end of 1969 there were 16 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and 6 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Rural District.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No action under Section 47 of this Act was called for during the year.

Water Supply

Adequate supplies of wholesome water were available to the greater part of the Rural District throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Whilst several schemes were submitted for Ministerial approval this was not forthcoming and no work on new schemes or those for enlargement of existing schemes was commenced during 1969.

Food

Reasonably good standards in the management of premises in which food is handled were maintained during 1969. One case only of food poisoning caused by *Salmonella typhimurium* occurred. The person concerned had recently returned from a holiday in Europe. No local article of food or drink was incriminated.

Factories Act, 1961

The operation of this Act presented no difficulty during the year.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

This report by Mr. G.M. Lawry follows. It gives me pleasure to put on record my gratitude to Mr. Lawry, Mr. Rayner and Mr. Cowling for the co-operation and help they have given me during the year.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1969

Water Supply

The water supply serving practically the whole of the Rural District is obtained from the River Fowey, from which it is conveyed by gravity to treatment works operated by the East Cornwall Water Board at St. Cleer. From St. Cleer the water is conveyed through a network of trunk mains throughout the Rural District. The Villages which are not supplied from these works are Warleggan, Mount and St. Neot and these obtain a supply from local springs which are also under the control of the Water Board.

(1) Quality

No complaints were received during the year regarding the quality of the water supplied by the East Cornwall Water Board and this is to be expected as the supply is of a high standard in respect of both quality and quantity. Regular samples of water are taken by the Board's Staff and subjected to both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. Daily samples of raw and settled water are taken to ensure that a pH value of 7.0 is maintained. In addition, checks are made for the presence of fluoride at six monthly intervals and no report has been received that any was detected.

During 1969 36 samples of water have been taken by my Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. These have been made on request by persons who have a private supply and the samples taken are mainly from farm houses and isolated cottages. Sampling inspections are

always made at the source of supply and advice is given on the carrying out of any necessary works to ensure that contamination does not occur at the source. Where a grant is obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture for the provision of farm water supplies the local authority is asked to certify that the water concerned is suitable for domestic use whenever the supply is taken to farm dwellings.

The details of samples which have been taken during 1969 are given below:-

Boconnoc

Boconnoc Estate. Land Spring.	(Satisfactory)
Roselyon Farm. Shallow Well.	(Satisfactory)

Lanreath

Porfell Farm, Herodsfoot. Land Springs.	(Satisfactory)
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Lansallos

Tremeer, Trenewan. Borehole.	(Unsatisfactory)
Tremeer, Trenewan. Borehole.	(Unsatisfactory)
Tremeer, Trenewan. Tap.	(Unsatisfactory)
Tremeens, Lansallos. Reservoir.	(Satisfactory)
Tremeens, Lansallos. Field Tap.	(Satisfactory)
Sea View, Killigarth. Holiday Camp Swimming Pool.	(Satisfactory)

Linkinhorne

Colquite, Rilla Mill. Spring.	(Unsatisfactory)
Trefrize Cottage. Borehole.	(Satisfactory)
Kersbrook Cross. Deep Well.	(Unsatisfactory)
Bartletts, Browda Estate. Shallow Well.	(Unsatisfactory)

Liskeard

Higher Lodge Farm. Reservoir.	(Satisfactory)
Barcroft, Little Pellegenna, Dobwalls. Reservoir.	(Satisfactory)

Pelynt

Tremaine Cottage. Tap.	(Satisfactory)
Trelawne Holiday Camp. Swimming Pool.	(Satisfactory)

St. Cleer

Primavera Cottage, Rosecraddoc. Tap.	(Unsatisfactory)
Rosecraddoc Manor House. Tap.	(Satisfactory)
Primavera Cottage, Rosecraddoc. Tap.	(Unsatisfactory)
Rosecraddoc Manor House. Tap.	(Unsatisfactory)
North Trekieve. Land Spring.	(Unsatisfactory)

St. Ive

Marshgate Cottage. Reservoir. (Satisfactory)

St. Martin

Keveral Woods. Tap. (Unsatisfactory)

Keveral Woods. Tap. (Satisfactory)

St. Neot

No. 1 Holly Cottage. Tap. (Unsatisfactory)

Lower Searles Down. Tap. (Satisfactory)

Netherton Farm, Draynes. Land Springs. (Unsatisfactory)

St. Winnow

Fairy Cross Farm. Well. (Satisfactory)

(2) Quantity

Generally there is no shortage of water in the Rural District, although at the Village of East Taphouse some improvements were carried out to the local supply in order to cope with a limited amount of new development in the Village. With the new dam, which has been built at Siblyback, there will now be an ensured adequate supply to cope with all demands up to the year 2000.

During 1969 no steps were taken to carry out the fluoridation of water supply by the East Cornwall Water Board.

In view of the fact that the water from the East Cornwall Water Board is neutral, when it leaves the Treatment Works, there is no chance of corrosion of metal pipes used to convey the supply. With regard to private wells, springs, etc., these are generally very acid in nature, but in the main polythene water piping and polythene water storage tanks are now being used and the problem of corrosion is not as serious as it was when the metal type fittings were used. The use of lead piping is a thing of the past and therefore there is no danger of lead poisoning.

Number of dwellings and population supplied from public mains

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Population of Parish</u>	<u>Population supplied to houses</u>	<u>No. of houses</u>	<u>Population supplied by standpipes</u>	<u>No. of houses</u>
Boconnoc	160	90	30	Nil	-
Broad oak	185	100	33	Nil	-
Duloe	540	417	137	Nil	-
Lanreath	350	239	76	Nil	-
Lansallos	1430	1442	474	Nil	-
Lanteglos	1083	1065	352	Nil	-
Linkinhorne	1075	739	240	Nil	-
Liskeard	1043	730	233	Nil	-
Menheniot	1085	883	294	Nil	-
Morval	470	132	36	Nil	-
Pelynt	600	496	159	Nil	-
South Hill	370	171	57	Nil	-
St. Cleer	1520	1319	433	Nil	-
St. Ive	1195	1014	338	Nil	-
St. Keyne	180	97	32	Nil	-
St. Martin	438	233	74	Nil	-
St. Neot	800	339	113	Nil	-
St. Pinnock	340	109	36	Nil	-
St. Veep	330	234	75	Nil	-
St. Winnow	383	86	29	Nil	-
Warleggan	153	109	35	Nil	-

Sewerage

As far as progress with sewerage schemes was concerned 1969 was again uneventful. At the end of the year no loan sanction had been received for those schemes which had been submitted to the Ministry. In the 1968 report I mentioned the need for schemes at Highway, Trevelmond, Lerryn and Golberdon which I feel are justified from the public health point of view as well as from the amenity aspect. The tertiary treatment scheme which was put in hand during the previous year at the Duloe sewage works was satisfactorily completed and this should help considerably with the problem in obtaining Royal Commission standard of effluent at these small works.

Considerable difficulty occurred during the year at the inlet to the Pelynt sewage works due to clogging of the screen and storm overflow weirs during the heavy rainfall, which resulted in some pollution of the adjacent stream. The Council, therefore, instructed the Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for the installation of a comminutor to shred all the solids in the sewage before it enters the storm overflow chamber. It was agreed that this work be carried out in advance of the main scheme of enlargement.

Instructions were given to the Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for the enlargement of the sewage disposal works at Common Moor where capacity had been reached due to private development being carried out in the Village.

A similar scheme for the enlargement of the Widegates system was submitted to the Engineers as the spare capacity in these works had been taken up by new development in the Village at Shortacross.

During the night of the 28th - 29th July there was an exceptional rainfall in the Village of Polperro of approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The sewer became surcharged and properties in the Village were flooded. In view of this the Council's Consulting Engineers were called in and were given instructions to carry out a full survey of the existing sewerage system in Polperro with instructions to report to the Council on the necessary enlargement to be done to the scheme.

Development continued to take place in the Villages in the Rural District and the enlargement of existing sewage works will be a necessity in many Villages in the future.

Public Conveniences

During 1969 new public conveniences were erected at St. Neot and Widegates and these were brought into operation.

I reported last year of the need for a larger public convenience in the Village of Polperro, but unfortunately no further progress was made in obtaining a suitable site for such a structure. It is in my view essential that a building of adequate size should be constructed to enable facilities to be available for the employment of a full time female attendant in the Ladies' section. Until this is done I am sure we will continue to receive complaints from visitors during the peak Summer season.

The hand towel machines which were installed during 1968 at Crumplehorn proved to be very satisfactory and a further two were installed in 1969 at The Quay public conveniences in the Village.

Public Health Nuisances

I reported in 1968 on complaints which were received in the Department of nuisance associated with intensive farming practices. During 1969 a small number of complaints were received from Villagers when liquid manure was being spread in fields close to residential areas. In most cases farmers used deodorants with the manure as suggested by my Department but although these help in mitigating smell I have found that they are far from being the answer to this problem. I reported last year on the need for some research to be carried out into this increasing problem and one would have thought the Ministry of Agriculture would have initiated this as I believe the problem is now becoming a national one.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

In the main the use of the refuse tip at Connon Bridge continued without a great deal of problems apart from some difficulty in dealing with seepage of water from the tip. It has been possible to comply with all the conditions of controlled tipping and by excavating into the sides of the valley adequate covering material has been obtained to enable refuse to be covered daily. No evidence of rats or tip fires occurred, but some complaints were received from adjacent farmers of a nuisance caused by gulls which seem to congregate on the tip.

Tipping continued at the Polperro refuse dump but it is rapidly filling and its life is now very limited. Without doubt within the next year consideration will have to be given to taking the refuse from Polperro area into the central tip at Connon Bridge. To enable this to be done a collection station will have to be set up with some form of compression type container into which the refuse can be dumped and when full the container carried to the main tip.

The refuse dump at Bury Down had to be closed during the year due to a nuisance being caused by refuse burning and creating a hazard on the road. It will be necessary now for this tip to be filled with soil to bring it up to the required level before the land is passed back to the owner.

The demand for refuse collection is increasing and this is not only due to that created by new development, but also by occupiers of isolated properties who now find that they have nowhere to tip refuse on their own land. The service, in my view, will have to grow in order to cope with these demands and in the future greater expenditure will have to be allocated to it.

During the year the Council introduced a system of supplying dustbins to occupiers of premises in the Rural District for a small annual rental charge and one hundred and seven bins were issued. This has effected a considerable improvement in the position where previously unsatisfactory containers were being placed out for collection.

The problem of litter collection is increasing particularly when new road schemes are carried out and the old roads are retained for use as laybys. During the year the Council gave consideration to the litter nuisance during the Summer season and it was agreed that additional collections be carried out in certain parts of the district in 1970.

In spite of an adequate refuse collection service throughout the Rural District I have during the year received several complaints of indiscriminate dumping being carried out in parts of the area. This seems to be done in the main by town dwellers, some of whom regard the countryside as a place where they can dump their rubbish. The cost of removing these deposits to the refuse dumps was a costly one but it was the only way to deal with them.

During 1970 I believe the Council will have to consider instituting a system of collection of bulky refuse as otherwise much of this will continue to be dumped in unauthorised places.

My great concern is to know how to deal with abandoned motorcars because I cannot have them put into the controlled tip and it is a problem which I believe can only be dealt with by the use of some form of compressor. Maybe neighbouring local authorities will have to get together to see whether some plant can be purchased and operated jointly.

Rodent Control

The need for this service was brought to light during the year when a fatal case of Leptospirosis jaundice occurred in the Rural District. I reported to the Council at the time that I felt that farmers were not making adequate use of the service which was provided by the Council. Many were carrying out their own treatment using Warfarin but they were not skilled in rodent control and the treatment carried out was often found to be far from satisfactory. In addition it seems to me that there is always danger of indiscriminate use of Warfarin building up a rat resistant population. An appeal was made through the Press to the local farmers to consider the serious danger of rat infestation both to crops and to human health. The services of the Rodent Operator which were previously on a part time basis was made full time so that more survey work could be carried on to ensure that occupiers of premises were taking adequate steps to control the rat population.

In addition to treatment of farms and private premises regular visits were made to the Council's refuse tips and to the stream at Polperro to ensure that rats are kept rigidly under control at these points. In the case of sewers the result of test baiting shows that no infestation occurred and this is in keeping with previous years.

I have set out below details of work carried out to private premises during the year:-

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	133	44
(b) Number infested:		
(i) Rats	127	44
(ii) Mice	6	-
(c) Total number of Properties inspected for rats and for mice for reasons other than notification.	303	-
(d) Number infested:		
(i) Rats	273	-
(ii) Mice	30	-

Re-Conditioning and Modernisation of Existing Houses

The following details give information of the number of Discretionary and Standard Grant schemes and the number paid during 1969:-

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Conversions

Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Owner/Occupier	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Amount of Grant approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£4,523
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Amount paid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

Improvements

Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Owner/Occupier	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Amount of Grant approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,331
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Amount paid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,681

STANDARD GRANTS

Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Applications approved - Owner/Occupier - Normal Limit	..							9
							Higher Limit	6
							Other - Normal Limit	3
							Higher Limit	3
							Housing Associations	-
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Amount paid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,044
Amenities provided - Fixed baths or showers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
							Wash basins	32
							Hot water supplies	32
							Water Closets	28
							Food Storage Facilities	21
Grants paid above but including higher limit - No. of dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Additional Work - Bathrooms added	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
							Piped water supplies	4
							Septic tanks	10

There was a reduction in the number of applications received in respect of both types of grants in the year under review. The reason for this could be that the sums available were becoming too small due to inflation and the Housing Act of 1969 which introduced the new and higher grants did not have time to show its full effect. In addition, since 1949 a very large number of dwellings have been improved throughout the district and one would expect, therefore, some fall in grant applications.

The Council welcomed the Housing Act 1969 and will I know do its utmost to continue the work of improving dwellings within the Rural District. It has always taken advantage of the opportunity to give maximum grants where possible and the new procedure whereby grants can be given to assist in the carrying out of repairs, as well as improvements, in certain circumstances will prove most useful in modernising old dwellings, many of which require new roofs. In addition, the opportunity is now available for a Standard Grant to be given for a kitchen sink and this is most useful as this amenity is so often lacking in rural cottages.

I do not anticipate much work being carried out in the Rural District on Area Improvement, but the policy of endeavouring to carry out improvements to groups of houses will continue and the Council during the year has agreed to purchase and modernise themselves, dwellings which owners are not prepared to do. In this connection improvement work was completed to five cottages at Rilla Mill and steps were taken to purchase three cottages in the Village of St. Neot. In addition, improvements were put in hand to four cottages in the Village of Widegates, three dwellings at Polperro and three dwellings at Polruan which were purchased by the Council in 1968.

Slum Clearance

There has been very little progress in the Rural District on slum clearance and I am of the opinion that this work will become even less in the future. There are no clearance areas which would have to be dealt with and the individual unfit cottage is quickly purchased when it becomes vacant and owners are prepared to carry out extensive re-conditioning and modernising. As I stated in 1968 the Council's housing work in the future will be more in connection with modernisation and re-conditioning of dwellings rather than slum clearance.

I have set out below details of the action taken during 1969:-

Unfit houses made fit	40
Unfit houses closed	2
Persons displaced	5
Families displaced	2
Number of houses demolished	1

Camping and Caravan Sites

In 1969 a licence for camping (tents) was issued in respect of a site at St. Martin. In addition licences were issued for a further ten caravans and nine renewal licences were granted.

I reported previously the problem which occurred in the Polperro area during the peak season when unauthorised sites without the necessary sanitary facilities were being used for camping and touring caravans. Most of the licensed sites are for seasonal units and the afore-mentioned tents and touring caravans are not adequately catered for.

During the year the Council asked the Planning Authority to consider bringing into operation an Article 4 Direction in the coastal area to prevent the present position whereby sites could be used for twenty-eight days without permission. Discussions continued during the year with the Planning Department and it was agreed that there was a need for further provision to be made for tent sites and touring caravans in the district before the Article 4 Direction could be brought into operation. It would be necessary for the Rural District Council to provide a site for touring caravans and during the year steps were put in hand for these matters to be considered. I hope that in the not too distant future conditions in the coastal area will be considerably improved as far as indiscriminate camping is concerned.

Food

(1) Slaughterhouses

There are no slaughterhouses in the Rural District and the meat consumed continued to be obtained from the Abattoir of the Fat Stock Marketing Corporation which is situated within the Borough of Liskeard. The latter authority employ a full time Meat Inspector and therefore a comprehensive meat inspection service is carried out. An inspection is made of meat on display in butcher's shops and in refrigerators when visits are made under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(2) Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

Routine inspections were made throughout the year to cafes, restaurants and food premises in the area and generally the standard has been reasonably satisfactory. In one case some difficulty was experienced with a cafe where the standards were not as good as required but the occupier agreed to co-operate and carry out the necessary improvements.

In connection with the contamination of food, I am still concerned that adequate care is not always taken to prevent raw meat getting into contact with other foods and utensils. It is not always appreciated that raw meat is in many cases contaminated with food poisoning organisms and there is an obvious danger of cross infection.

I have very little else to say different to what was said last year, but it is only by constant routine inspections that the standard in food premises can be adequately maintained. It is reassuring to know that no major outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year in spite of the large number of visitors in the district.

The number and types of food premises in the Rural District are as follows:-

	No.	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises where Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocers' Shops	65	65	30	30
Confectionery	5	5	-	-
Licensed Premises	31	31	31	31
Cafes and Restaurants	35	35	35	35
Butchers	18	18	18	18
Hotels and Guest Houses	27	27	27	27
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1
Greengrocers	1	1	-	-
Clubs	5	5	5	5
Food Factory	1	1	1	1
Bulk Food Store	1	1	-	-

(3) Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicle Regulations, 1966

It is very difficult to keep adequate records of food vans which are operating in the Rural District, as many of them are stationed in towns outside of this area. Inspections have been carried out to vehicles when seen in the Villages and most of these are now adequately equipped. I am, however, not very happy with the portable type of hand washing equipment which has to be carried and I am certainly concerned as to how dirty water is disposed of. It is difficult to say what other system can be installed except by heating the water from the radiators of the vans, which I feel might provide a more constant supply of hot water.

(4) Examination of Food

Inspection of food is carried out during routine visits to food shops and on requests from retailers. During the year under review the following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

1 tin of fish	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Pork sausage	4 Beef burgers
9 tins of soup	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Beef sausage	5 Individual beef pies
1 tin of meat	1 pkt. Bacon	4 Chocolate sweet dishes
7 tins of fruit	6 Chicken dinners	20 pkts. Fish
6 tins of vegetables	14 Fish cakes	3 Steak and Kidney pies
18 lbs. shoulder		

All condemned food is disposed of at the Council's refuse dump and treated with dye under my supervision.

(5) Milk and Dairies

There are five registered dairies in the Rural District but no bottling of milk takes place in any of these.

During the year nine samples of cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and for the detection of Brucellosis. In all cases there was a negative result of Brucella culture. From the results of this sampling I am able to report that the standard of clotted cream on sale in the Rural District is much higher than it was a few years ago.

In addition thirteen samples of Yogurt were taken and these all proved to be satisfactory.

(6) Ice Cream

During 1969, fifty-six samples of ice cream were taken and were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
28	5	12	11

The samples which were placed in Grades 3 and 4 were of loose ice cream and contamination undoubtedly comes from the servers and/or from the air when the conservators are found kept open for long periods when serving queues of people. Visits were made to the premises throughout the year and the need for adequate sterilisation of servers is always stressed.

(7) Egg Pasteurisation Plants

There are no Egg Pasteurisation Plants in the Rural District.

(8) Poultry Inspection

There are no known poultry processing premises in the Rural District, but whenever routine visits are made to butcher's shops, etc., the inspection of poultry on display is always carried out. Visits were made to three farms where it was suspected that the slaughter of poultry was being carried out on a large scale, but it was found that this was not so.

Council and Private Housing

(1) Council Housing

During 1969 twenty-two Council houses were completed.

The Council continued its policy of providing distress warning systems in old people's bungalows and it is hoped that such a system will be operating in all the major Villages. In the case of old people's bungalows which are in isolated pairs and for which no Wardens System could be provided, the Council has purchased a number of Autoalarms and these were issued to the old people concerned so that they could use them in cases of distress.

At the end of the year under review the Council owned eight hundred and seven dwellings.

(2) Private Housing

During 1969 one hundred and five houses and twenty-six flats were completed.

Factories Act, 1961

During the 1969 year we saw a reduction in the number of factories being used in the district. This seems to be the trend at the moment and it would not surprise me if we did not see another reduction next year. This may be due to people either ceasing to be employed by a small firm and so joining larger organisations or becoming self-employed when they would be outside the scope of the Act, providing, of course, they did not employ other people. It was also noted that the number of building sites (which are also technically classed as factories) were reduced in number. This I can only assume was due to the period of financial restraint which was imposed on the country as a whole, thereby making it more difficult for people to obtain mortgages and loans.

Throughout the year the Council has been very active in trying to acquire sites on which to attract industrial development into the district. The largest of these being the British Railways Doublebois site and adjacent land. We have received a number of tentative enquiries from would-be operators and the Council has been feverishly considering all such enquiries.

Generally the conditions of factories in the district have been very good, we have received no complaints from employees and at our general inspections conditions were, with very few exceptions, satisfactory.

The number of outworkers in the district are very small, but when we receive notification of their existence visits are made to the premises concerned.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of new premises coming within the scope of the Act for the year has risen slightly on last year's numbers, whilst the persons employed have increased by about 36 per cent. I must point out, as I did in 1968, that most of the registered premises in this authority are of a seasonal type and numbers will in all probability fluctuate from year to year. It must be also understood that over half the premises registered will be closed for six months of the year.

The conditions generally existing at all premises are as follows:-
Cleanliness (Section 4)

Again the standard of cleanliness is generally good, although in some of the bric-a-brac shops the first aid kit boxes have had three months dust on them when they have been produced from beneath counters. Accumulations of wrapping materials still seem to collect at busy times in some of these shops even though we provide a very good refuse collection service in the seaside Villages, where most of the Summer trade is carried out.

Overcrowding (Section 5)

We have ~~gain~~adm complaints or indeed found any evidence of overcrowding in registered premises, apart from maybe the congestion of customers in the seasonal shop, however no account can be taken of this.

Temperature (6) and Ventilation (Section 7)

Heating and ventilation continues to be found quite satisfactory throughout the registered premises in the district. We are continually finding that owners of shops and offices are showing a preference to electric type heaters due no doubt to their ease in controlling.

Lighting (Section 8)

Testing for illumination is carried out periodically and with few exceptions remains satisfactory. The odd times when we do find cause for complaint it is invariably due to some globe or tube failure. These are normally replaced without delay when the owners are shown the errors of their ways.

Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9) and Washing Facilities (Section 10)

Again I have to report that most premises have their own water closet and washing facilities. There are, however, odd establishments which have to share these amenities due to the layout and size of the premises.

Floors, Passages and Stairs (Section 16)

It has again on a number of occasions throughout the year been necessary for advice to be given to occupiers regarding the placing of stock on stairways and small landings. This I find rather difficult to understand, because invariably the person who does this is the employed person, who is at most risk and for whom the Act was devised. They are usually informed that it is their neck which will be broken in the event of a fall and following our visits the obstructions were removed.

I think the reason why this seems to be a recurring failure must in some part be due to the fact that the change-over of staff in some holiday Villages is rather rapid and by the time a person in a small shop has become experienced in the requirement of the Act they are replaced by another inexperienced person.

Dangerous Machines (Sections 17, 18 and 19)

Again we have not had any trouble with the few bacon machines in the district. Operators and occupiers are informed of the dangers that exist whilst using these machines and I think it is generally realised that they are not toys to be played with.

First Aid (Section 24)

Originally first aid equipment was provided in all premises but on a few occasions due to change of occupiers, alterations and such, some of the materials were found to have been misplaced, soiled or lost. However, by the end of the season most premises were adequately supplied.

Abstract of the Act

All premises were equipped with either OSR 9 or OSR 9B. The notices again like the first aid kit are very susceptible to being lost, misplaced or damaged. Probably due to the change of occupiers, alterations and the long closed season when all stock is removed from the premises.

Lifts and Hoists

There are no premises in the district equipped with lifts and hoists.

Accidents

During 1969 no accidents were reported. Occupiers of premises have been made aware of their obligations in this respect.

I think both owners and staff feel that the Act is a good piece of legislation and I find that generally speaking very little opposition is encountered whilst inspections are being carried out.

The following items were attended to during 1969:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Item</u>
3	New water closets
2	New wash hand basins
4	Hot water supplies
4	Decorations

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE "A"

Registrations and General Inspections

TOTALS			
Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	9	9
Retail Shops	4	42	42
Wholesale shops, warehouses	0	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	0	32	32
Fuel storage depots	2	2	2

TABLE "B"

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to
Registered Premises

138

TABLE "C"

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	25
Retail Shops	95
Wholesale departments, warehouses	11
Catering establishments open to the public	137
Canteens	0
Fuel Storage Depots	5
Total	273
Total Males	92
Total Females	181

TABLE "D"

Exemptions

Nil

Prosecutions

Nil

TABLE "F"

Inspectors

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act	3
Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	Nil

APPENDIX 1

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1969

DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R. D.	LISKEARD R. D.	SALTASH M. B.	TORPOINT U. D.	LISKEARD M. B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA No. 7
Heart disease	82	71	29	26	28	28	264
Cancer (all sites)	42	46	23	13	16	16	156
Stroke	20	28	14	9	34	12	117
Respiratory disease	23	24	16	5	9	7	84
Circulatory disease	6	3	2	4	4	1	20
Digestive disease	5	7	4	-	-	1	17
Accidents	6	1	6	1	1	-	15
Genito-urinary disease	8	1	-	1	-	-	10

APPENDIX 2

TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1969

TYPE OF DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R. D.	LISKEARD R. D.	SALTASH M. B.	TORPOINT U. D.	LISKEARD M. B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA No. 7
Ischaemic heart disease	58	64	23	19	28	18	210
Other heart disease	10	4	3	5	-	8	30
Hypertensive disease	9	2	2	2	-	2	17
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	5	1	1	-	-	-	7
Cancer of lung and bronchus	4	8	6	3	5	2	28
Cancer of intestine	11	6	1	1	1	3	23
Cancer of stomach	9	4	1	5	-	-	19
Cancer of breast	5	6	2	-	1	3	17
Cancer of uterus	2	2	1	-	1	1	7
Other cancers	11	20	12	4	8	7	62

APPENDIX 3

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1969

DISTRICT	0 - 4 YEARS	5 - 14 YEARS	15 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 - 74 YEARS	75 YEARS AND OVER	ALL AGES
St. Germans R.D.	6	-	7	37	66	93	209
Liskeard R.D.	4	-	10	45	55	80	194
Saltash M.B.	2	-	1	14	37	44	98
Torpoint U.D.	1	-	3	14	16	30	64
Liskeard M.B.	1	-	1	8	25	66	101
Looe U.D.	1	1	2	18	16	30	68
Health Area No. 7	15	1	24	136	215	343	734

APPENDIX 4TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES IN NO. 7 HEALTH AREA - 1969

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
0 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	-	1
25 - 44 years	1	3	4
45 - 64 years	4	-	4
65 years and over	4	-	4
	10	3	13
	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>

New case rate per 1,000 of population	0.186	0.056	0.242
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CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1969

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
ST. GERMAN'S R.D.	0.07	1.65	-
LISKEARD R.D.	0.29	1.60	-
SALTASH M.B.	0.45	2.39	-
TORPOINT U.D.	0.32	1.30	-
LISKEARD M.B.	0.20	4.29	-
LOOE U.D.	0.25	2.70	-
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.24	2.01	-
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.17	2.33	0.04

APPENDIX 5CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS
DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1969

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
45 - 54 years	1	-	1
55 - 64 years	5	3	8
65 - 74 years	12	1	13
75 years and over	5	1	6
	23	5	28

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION - 1969

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.428	0.093	0.521
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.433	0.110	0.543
ENGLAND AND WALES	0.506	0.104	0.610

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

- 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

		Number of		
<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ^I	26	26	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	54	43	4	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding outworkers' premises)	92	142	Nil	Nil
Total	172	211	4	Nil

^I To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1961, are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 123(1)), Institutions (Section 124), sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127), Slaughterhouses (Section 175 (1) (d) and (e)), and Railway Running Sheds (Section 175 (2) and (10)).

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	4	4	-	-	-
Total	13	13	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	Section 133		Section 134		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing Apparel, Making, etc., cleaning and washing	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

